

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 are canceled, and claims 15-17 are added.

Newly added claim 15 recites a cap for a baby's beverage bottle. The cap comprises a passage through which beverage in the bottle may flow from the bottle. A first flexible elastic portion deformable by the baby's mouth and surrounding the passage and through which passage a baby can suck beverage is provided. A second flexible elastic portion which clamping engages the beverage bottle to hold the cap on the bottle is provided. The second portion stretching and then relaxing to clamping engage the beverage bottle and to hold the cap on said bottle. A pair of manually engageable pull tabs to pull the second portion onto the bottle and stretch the second portion is provided. Each of the pull tabs extends in a downward and outward direction with respect to the second portion. Each of the pull tabs has a length that is greater than the width of the first flexible elastic portion, which width is transverse to the direction of the flow of beverage through said passage.

The second portion has an outer surface. A lip portion extends perpendicularly from the outer surface and circumferentially around the outer surface. The lip portion is attached to each of the pull tabs to reinforce the pull tabs. The entire cap is a pre-formed, one-piece unitary structure, wherein the second portion includes a

circumferential inner surface and a stop member extending perpendicularly from the inner surface. The stop member abuts a lip of the beverage bottle when the second portion is stretched over the beverage bottle. None of the prior art either alone or in combination discloses or suggests the features of claim 15. Thus, claim 15 is allowable.

Newly added claim 16, which depends from claim 15, should be allowed for the same reasons as claim 15 and also for the additional features recited therein. Specifically, claim 16 recites that the first portion includes a bulbous terminal end with an opening, a plurality of ribs and a frustum portion extending from the ribs. The first portion includes an outer surface having texture that simulates the surface texture of a human nipple. None of the prior art either alone or in combination discloses or suggests these features and including all of the limitations of claim 15. Therefore, claim 16 is allowable.

Newly added claim 17, which depends from claim 15, should be allowed for the same reasons as claim 15 and also for the additional features recited therein. Specifically, claim 17 recites that the first portion includes a terminal end with a tip including a plurality of apertures and a bellows located between the terminal end and a frustum portion. The terminal end includes first and second tapering outer surfaces extending on opposite sides from each other. The first and second tapering surfaces are separated by curved surfaces so that the terminal end has an approximately oval cross section. None of the prior art either alone or in combination discloses


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or suggests these features and including all of the limitations of claim 15. Therefore, claim 17 is allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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